

For Immediate Release

Department of Public Utilities Names New Division of Power Administrator

The Department of Public Utilities has appointed Herb Johanson, P.E., as Administrator to lead the newly created Division of Power. Johanson was chosen following an extensive search among a pool of candidates that was in the 150+ applicant range. A search was launched around the beginning of the year after legislation was passed by Columbus City Council to separate the former Division of Power and Water back into two divisions, as it was prior to 2006.

Director Greg Davies said in announcing the promotion, **"Herb brings a great deal of experience that will serve the division well. Mayor Coleman and City Council have made a conscious effort to reinvest in our municipal power and street lighting services. So with that, along with our purchase power agreements in place for the next several years and new leadership, we are now positioned to move the city's power utility forward. I know Herb shares my vision for growing the customer base competitively and lighting the streets of Columbus."**

Johanson, an Assistant Administrator for the department since 2007 after originally being hired as a project manager in 2004, has overseen several complex projects that have included \$500 million in wastewater treatment plant upgrades along with another \$500 million in expansions and upgrades to the city's water treatment plants, which are currently underway. He has prior public sector experience with the State of Ohio, and private consultant engineering work included positions with Stantec, R.D. Zande and Associates, and URS Corporation.

In accepting his appointment to be effective April 15, Johanson said, **"I look forward to working with the dedicated staff members of the Division of Power to rebuild it into the strongest municipal power utility it can be, which will enhance it as an asset to the City of Columbus and its residents."**

A Clintonville area resident of Columbus, Johanson is a certified professional engineer with the State of Ohio and received his Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from the Merrimack College in Massachusetts.

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